

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6-21 are currently pending in the subject application, claims 4, 6-12 and 18-21 are presently under consideration, and claims 1-3 and 13-17 have been withdrawn. Claims 4 and 6-12 have been amended herein and claim 5 has been cancelled herein. Additionally, claims 18-21 are newly added. A listing of all claims is found at pages 3-6. Also, the specification has been amended as shown at page 2 to include a claim of priority under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) to U.S. Provisional Patent Application 60/194,717, filed April 5, 2000 and entitled POINTBUS ARCHITECTURE AND AUTOMATIC SEQUENTIAL ADDRESSING. Favorable consideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and comments herein.

In prior prosecution, claims 4, 7, 9, 10 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Zegelin (U.S. 6,484,216) and claims 6 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Zegelin in view of Burke *et al.* (U.S. 6,052,382). Additionally, claims 5 and 8 were indicated as being allowable if recast in independent form to include all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Pursuant to the decision by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, independent claim 4 has been amended herein. In particular, independent claim 4 has been amended herein to include the limitations of claim 5 noted as being allowable. Accordingly, independent claim 4 (and claims 6-12 and 18-21 which depend there from) is believed to be allowable. Thus, it is respectfully requested that these rejections be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063 [ALBRP180US].

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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